

# **THE ROLE OF EXTENDED PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION IN SUSPECTED SUDDEN INFANT DEATH (SIDS) CASES**

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SIDS is still controversial and subject of various speculations. Only a minority of suspected cases demonstrate pathological changes. Critical evaluation of suspected cases is inevitable because some cases represent criminal actions. It is important to investigate the scene of death, ask the witnesses of death and collect all relevant data about the prior pregnancy and the health issues of deceased. Last but not least, detailed and full coroners' post mortem examination should be performed. SIDS is a diagnosis of exclusion therefore extended histopathological examination cannot be set aside. The direct cause of death cannot be established without performing histopathological, toxicological and microbiological examinations. Our study describes a series of consecutive cases of suspected SIDS investigated during the last five years in the Department of Forensic and Insurance Medicine of Semmelweis University. Extended histopathological examination alone could provide important additional information which helped to establish the correct pathological diagnosis in suspected SIDS cases.

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